

Saint Bernadette Church Prayer for Parish Gatherings



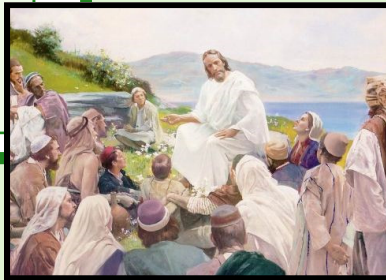
**A simple faith sharing process to put Jesus' message
at the heart of your parish organization's meeting**

Opening Prayer

Holy Spirit,
Direct our minds with Your wisdom.
Open our ears with Your words.
Touch our lips with Your truth.
Fill our hearts with Your love.
Amen.

Reflect & Share

**Share one or more of the following questions.
What word or phrase speaks to you in this reading?**



Who do you consider to be blessed?
How has God blessed you? How does that compare with whom Jesus says is blessed and how?

If you had to add another "blessed" or "woe" what contemporary group might you choose and what blessing/admonishment might you offer them?

How does Jesus seem to regard the disadvantaged? How do you tend to look at them? How would you like to look at them?

Does this gospel's version of The Beatitudes feel different to you than the perhaps more familiar one in Matthew?

If you consider this as Jesus' answer to the question of whether happiness can be attained in this life, what do you think He's saying?

Do you ever sense the joy and happiness of hungering and thirsting for God alone and his kingdom of peace and righteousness?

Scripture Reading

**February 17th
6th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Luke 6:17, 20-26**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke...

Jesus came down with the twelve and stood on a stretch of level ground with a great crowd of his disciples and a large number of the people from all Judea and Jerusalem and the coastal region of Tyre and Sidon. And raising his eyes toward his disciples he said: "Blessed are you who are poor, for the kingdom of God is yours. Blessed are you who are now hungry, for you will be satisfied. Blessed are you who are now weeping, for you will laugh. Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude and insult you, and denounce your name as evil on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice and leap for joy on that day! Behold, your reward will be great in heaven. For their ancestors treated the prophets in the same way. But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation. Woe to you who are filled now, for you will be hungry. Woe to you who laugh now, for you will grieve and weep. Woe to you when all speak well of you, for their ancestors treated the false prophets in this way."

The Gospel of the Lord!

Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ

(Allow 30 Seconds of Reflective Silence.)

Closing Prayer

Loving God,
how contrary to the ways of the world
are the attitudes You call us to embrace.
Help us to better see and understand that
in our spiritual poverty and hunger
is the way to total reliance on You.
Help us to mourn our sinfulness
and turn aside from pride in ourselves.
Teach us to desire what is holy and good
and resist valuing things because
the world tells us they are important.
Show us the way to the true blessings
of peace and everlasting joy...
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Message

His Message

Our Message